

# 17 DEAD IN SCHOOL SHOOTING

## Netflix snags another prolific producer

By MEG JAMES  
AND DAVID NG

With yet another mighty roar, Netflix sent a warning shot to the rest of the entertainment industry — landing a new multiyear deal with prolific TV producer Ryan Murphy, the man behind 20th Century Fox Television’s “Feud,” “American Horror Story,” “Glee” and more. The deal — which some pegged at as much as \$300 million — is the latest evidence of just how powerful the streaming giant has become at luring Hollywood’s top talent away from established competitors.

The agreement, which was announced late Tuesday, adds another name-brand producer to Netflix’s growing stable of hit makers. It also signals the company’s willingness to splurge on big names as it continues to borrow heavily to fund its ambitious growth strategy, which will see the company spend a projected \$7.5 billion to \$8 billion on content this [See Netflix, A8]

## Trump decries abuse as scandal persists

By CHRISTI PARSONS

WASHINGTON — President Trump broke his silence on the subject of spousal abuse Wednesday, declaring publicly that he is “totally opposed to it” — but spoke out only as a scandal continued to fester over the White House handling of domestic violence allegations against a former top aide.

For more than a week, the administration has proved unable to convincingly answer questions about how officials failed to respond to accusations of physical abuse levied by two ex-wives against Rob Porter, who until last week served as a key White House official.

On Wednesday, Congress entered the picture as Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) announced that his House Oversight Committee was launching an investigation to find out what and when the White House knew about the allegations. He vowed that he’d either get answers or “a really good reason” why there weren’t any.

“I am interested in how someone with credible allegations of domestic abuse, [See Abuse, A7]



**A STUDENT** is comforted after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. “This has been a day we’ve seen the worst of humanity,” said Broward County Schools Supt. Robert Runcie.

## Shaking up showbiz norms

### ‘Black Panther’ taps pent-up demand for diverse heroes

By RYAN FAUGHNDER  
AND DANIEL MILLER

The fictional African land of Wakanda, which outsiders wrongly assume to be a Third World country, is the most technologically advanced nation on Earth in the Marvel comic book universe. This weekend, the new film about Wakanda’s protector, Black Panther, is also poised to destroy long-held assumptions about the movie business.

All signs say Marvel Studios’ “Black Panther,” being released Thursday evening by Walt Disney Co., is having a cultural moment fueled by massive pent-up demand for what is expected to be the first global superhero blockbuster to feature a mostly black cast and an African American director.



JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times  
**CHADWICK BOSEMAN** plays the hero in Marvel’s “Black Panther,” opening Thursday evening.

The \$200-million film — directed by Ryan Coogler (“Creed”) and starring Chadwick Boseman as the titular hero — is expected to gross at least \$150 million in the United States and Canada through Monday, according to people who have reviewed audience surveys, putting it on track to become one of Marvel Studios’ most valuable franchises.

Such a strong domestic result would set a record for a film directed by an African American filmmaker. It would also represent an unprecedented opening for a Marvel Studios movie that is not a sequel or an “Avengers” film, easily beating the first “Iron Man,” “Thor,” “Captain America” and “Guardians of the Galaxy” pictures.

Crucially, “Black Panther” could help shake up the way Hollywood does business by defying assumption [See ‘Panther,’ A12]

## 2018 OLYMPICS PYEONGCHANG



QUINN ROONEY Getty Images  
**LOWELL BAILEY** will try Thursday to become the first American to win an Olympic medal in the biathlon, a sport that combines skiing with shooting.

## He chases history in a solo sport, but he’s far from alone

By DAVID WHARTON

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — The night turned bitterly cold, a hard wind blowing across the biathlon course at the 2018 Winter Olympics, and the best Lowell Bailey could manage was 33rd place.

“I just didn’t have it in the legs,” Bailey said after the 10-kilometer sprint. “I hoped for better.”

To make matters worse, the veteran American racer did not have his wife and daughter waiting outside the stadium because the trip to Pyeongchang had proved too costly and difficult.

It mattered to Bailey because, unlike a lot of Olympians, he normally travels with his family, even if that has meant extra luggage and changing diapers and occasionally waking to nighttime cries.

“Every athlete has to find their balance,” he said.

Erika and little Ophelia play a very real part in the career of the first world champion in U.S. biathlon history, a man who might still win the country’s first Olympic medal in the sport when he races again in the 20-kilometer individual on Thursday.

That’s because every time Bailey clicks into his skis and slings a rifle across his back, the 36-year-old is driven by the memory of a grueling hill in Austria. [See Olympics, A8]

A 19-year-old former student is held in rampage at Florida campus. At least a dozen are injured.

By MATT PEARCE,  
MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE  
AND JACLYN COSGROVE

A former student who had been expelled for disciplinary reasons opened fire at a South Florida high school Wednesday, killing 17 people and wounding at least a dozen others, authorities said.

The suspected gunman, Nikolas Cruz, 19, was quickly arrested “without incident” after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said. Cruz had made “disturbing” posts on social media before the attack, Israel said.

Cruz was armed with at least one AR-15 semiautomatic rifle and “countless magazines,” said Israel, who did not suggest a possible motive. Officials think he acted alone.

“This has been a day we’ve seen the worst of humanity,” said Broward County Public Schools Supt. Robert Runcie.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott said the investigation would attempt to determine how a high school student came to be armed with such a powerful weapon. “You come to the conclusion that this is just absolutely pure evil,” he said.

Several students reported first hearing gunshots after someone pulled a fire alarm. Hannah Siren, 14, was in math class on the third floor of the freshman building, where at least part of the shooting reportedly happened.

“The people next door to us must have not locked their door,” said Hannah, breaking into tears. “They all got shot” — seven to 10 victims, she said.

Samuel Dykes, a freshman, added that he heard gunshots and saw several bodies in a classroom on the third floor.

Another student told WSVN-TV that when she ran into a classroom on the third floor to hide, a geography teacher opened the door to let her in, and when he started closing it, the teacher “was shot and killed right there,” she said. “The door was open, [the gunman] could have walked in at any time.” The students hid in the corner and survived.

“He kind of shielded them,” one of his students, Christina Vega, told the television station. “He actually stepped up.”

Christina added: “I don’t want to go back to this [See Shooting, A7]

### Judge checks out homeless camps

U.S. District Judge David O. Carter, who is hearing a case that pits homeless advocates against several Orange County cities, visits the Santa Ana River trail where people are being evicted. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Weather

Mostly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 69/49. **B6**

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